

Gator Gazette

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND → 917th WING, BARKSDALE AFB, LA → NOVEMBER 1999

Twenty years later the search continues

By Mrs. Belinda Bazinet
Wing Public Affairs

At the end of the Vietnam War, 2,583 Americans did not return. They were listed as KIA/BNR (killed in action/body not recovered), or missing and unaccounted for. To date, 529 of

them have been recovered, identified and returned home to their families.

Senior Master Sgt. Billy Beard, 47th life support supervisor, spent the summer assisting in the search and recovery effort. As a volunteer member of the Joint Task Force - Full Accounting, he and 15 team

members from all services searched the remote, primitive and sometimes hazardous terrain of Southeast Asia to recover evidence or the actual remains of those missing.



The Recovery Element team treks up the mountain to a remote burial site.



PHOTOS BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. BILLY BEARD

Recovery Element team members prepare to excavate a possible burial site in Quang Tri, Vietnam.

The task force was initiated by the Reagan administration in the 1980s. Initially, Vietnam reluctantly gave permission to allow teams to search for the MIAs, but after a 1988 visit to Hanoi by the U.S. envoy, the Vietnamese began actively supporting the search and recovery program.

As a result, teams were able to go into Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia and recover the remains and artifacts of crash sites from the Mekong River delta in the former South Vietnam, to the rice paddies of Laos and Cambodia, to sites in northern Vietnam close to China's border. Each successful mission means that families can finally know what happened to the loved one who disappeared more than 20 years ago.

Beard's first trip took him to an isolated burial site in Quang

Tri, which is about two hours north of Da Nang. "My mission was to identify anything dealing with the aircraft itself, whether within the cockpit or personal aircrew items," he said.

Getting to the sites took guts, because the only way to get to them was to trek through miles of jungle, the muck of rice paddies, or steep mountainous terrain. Many of the sites where aircraft crashed still contain live weapons that are scattered on the ground. Heat, humidity and poisonous wildlife were also a challenge while searching for MIAs.

"One helicopter crash site was on a remote mountain. There were still UXOs (unexploded ordnance's) on the ground," Beard said. "It was weird walking through tough terrain worrying about leeches, spiders and snakes. It made me think about the guys during the war. They had to worry about the wildlife and about being shot at!"

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Gator Gazette

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"Armistice Day" was proclaimed to honor veterans of World War I. In 1954, Congress changed it to "Veterans Day" with November 11 becoming a day to honor American veterans of all wars. The citizens of this Nation give special recognition and thanks to the men and women who have served and continue to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States. Father O'Brien, USMC, sums it up like this:

"It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to demonstrate.

It is the soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag."

Our veterans have endured extreme sacrifices, many of them the ultimate sacrifice, to ensure we can continue to enjoy the freedoms known by no others.

Chaplain's Corner: Thanks, Veterans

**By Chaplain (Lt. Col.)
Charles R. Langford**

The month of November is when our nation pauses to honor our veterans and to give thanks to God. Although November 11 and Thanksgiving Day have their unique focus, for those of us in uniform, they should be linked very closely together. This has become increasingly clear to me over my four and a half years in Winnsboro, La.

Winnsboro is known for its American flags. During each holiday and on other special occasions, American flags line the main highway through town on either side of the largest American flag in the state of Louisiana. The families of deceased veterans donated these flags for this purpose. The originator of this project was Master Sgt. William Wade House, Sr., a member of one of my churches and a prisoner of war during World War II and the Korean Conflict.

This November, we who wear the uniform should make a special effort to express our thanks for the veterans in our communities. Tell them we appreciate the sacrifice they made. Affirm their importance by listening to what they have to tell us. Thank God for those who placed their lives on the line for our nation, for freedom, and for us to have the privilege of living and serving in "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

Thank God for them and have a blessed November.



Col. Jack C. Ihle



AFNEWS

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| November 1 | Starry Teller Hours
7 p.m. - Base Theater |
| November 16 | Cultural Awareness
Program
3:30 p.m. - Youth Center |
| November 20 | Pow Wow
10 a.m.-3 p.m. - Museum |
| November 1-30 | Native American Exhibit
Museum |

In brief

Supplies available for pickup

These items were back-ordered by reservists over the last 120 days and need to be picked up as soon as possible. Listed below are the first five letters of the person's name and the items awaiting pickup:

Brigh	BDU jacket
Flore	Ear defenders
Johns	Liner, gortex
King	BDU jacket liner
Stoke	Liner, gortex

917 SFS offers transportation for change of command

The Security Forces Squadron will hold a change of command ceremony at the Warrior Training Center on the East Reservation November 6 at noon

There will be a shuttle leaving the Wing building at 11 a.m. for anyone interested in attending the ceremony.

Training classes available

The 917th Training Office has received dates for fiscal year 2000 training classes. Interested personnel should contact their supervisors if interested in enrolling in these classes.

The 917th is allowed one NCO Academy quota for each class scheduled in fiscal year 2000. The academy classes are located at Keesler AFB, Miss. and Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Keesler AFB (1 quota per class):

8 Nov. - 16 Dec. 99

4 Jan. - 11 Feb. 00

22 Feb - 29 Mar. 00

4 Apr. - 10 May 00

23 May - 29 Jun. 00

31 July - 7 Sept. 00

Maxwell AFB (2 quotas available):

6 Sept. - 18 Oct. 00

For more information contact Master Sgt. Pat Roberson at 456-8066.

Microsoft Office training available to Wing personnel

A five-day workshop on Microsoft Office 97 is scheduled for November 15-19. The workshop will include applications on Word, Access, Powerpoint and Excel 97, and Outlook 98/ Internet/ Intranet.

The classes will be located at the STARBASE building from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information contact Senior Master Sgt. Margaret Mayweather at 456-9859 or Capt. Janice Sneed at 456-8983.

Civilian x-rays accepted

Civilian dental x-rays are being accepted for use during the dental exam portion of the physical exam process.

X-rays must have been taken within the previous 12 months. Copies are acceptable, however x-rays must be of good diagnostic quality. X-rays will not be returned, but retained in the members record.

The type x-rays needed are a full mouth series or a panograph. For more information contact anyone in the Medical Squadron at 456-8983/3618.

Female physical examination policy changes

All females reporting for periodic examinations after December (non-flying and long flying will be required to bring a record of a completed female examination

done within the previous 11 months by their private physicians unless they request the examination be done by our medical squadron personnel.

Forms with instructions will be provided for the squadron medical monitors to distribute to each female member in the wing.

Members that do not comply will be offered the examination as part of the military physical. Those who do not accept either option will be placed in a non-compliant status, precluding participation in any pay or point gaining activity until the deficiency is rectified. This modification is being made so that examinations may be completed in a more timely fashion.

Flu shots scheduled for November

Flu shots are scheduled to be given in November. The following dates and locations are available to everyone except those labeled as such.

Friday, November 5 -

8-10 a.m. - A-10 Hanger

Saturday, November 6 -

6 - 7 a.m. - Base Theater/917th Medical personnel only

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Wing Auditorium

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. - A-10 Hanger

11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. - 917th Maintenance Survival EQ Shop

Sunday, November 7 -

8 - 11 a.m. - A-10 Hanger/47th personnel only

8 - 11 a.m. - Lemay Auditorium/307th personnel only

8 - 11 a.m. - 93rd Hanger/93rd personnel only

12 - 1 p.m. - Security Forces Building
12:30 - 2 p.m. - A-10 Hanger

How does the anthrax bacteria kill?

By Lt. Col. (Dr.) Ali Mansouri
917th Medical Squadron

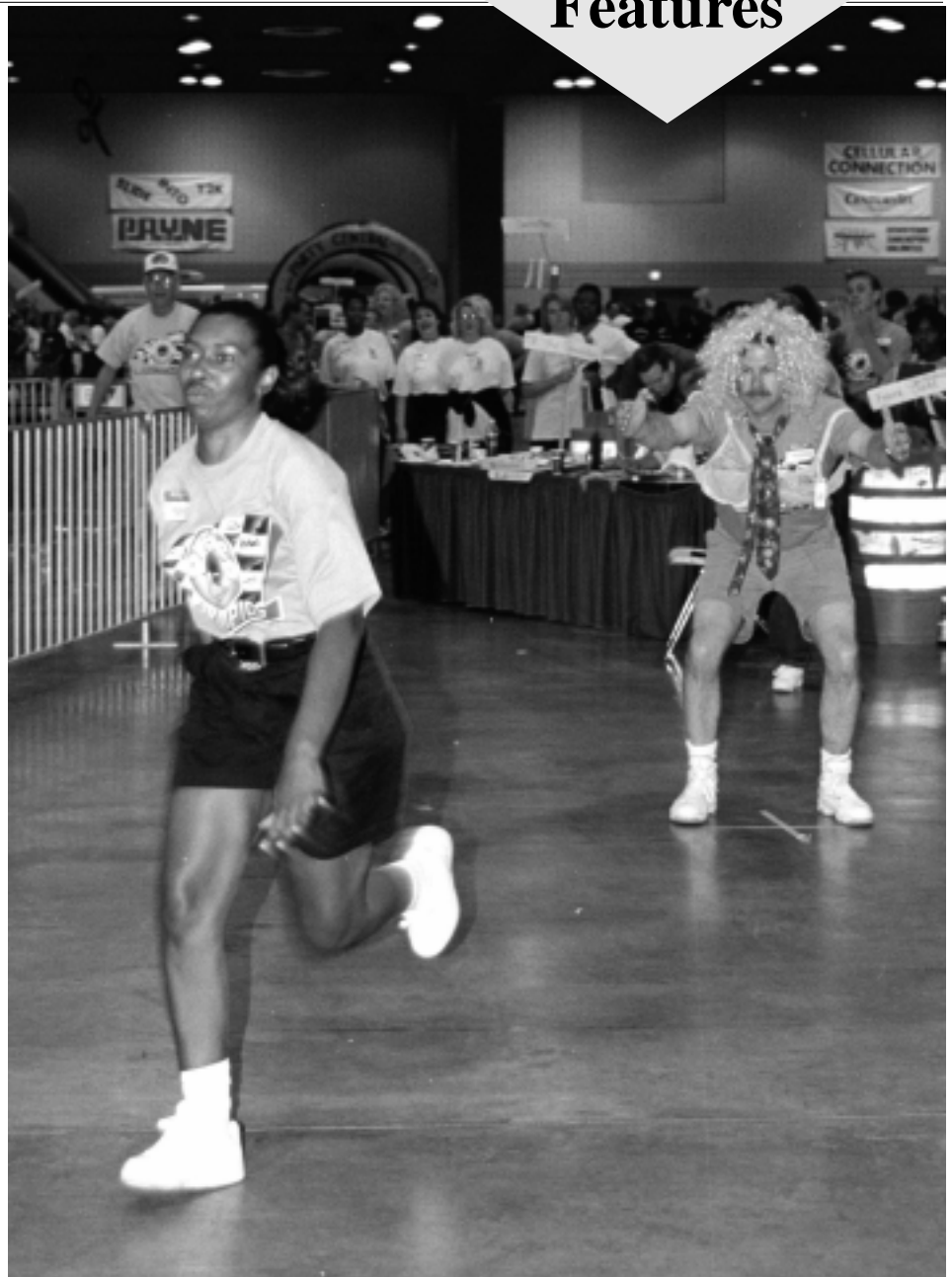
In the case of biological warfare or terrorist attack, the spores of the anthrax bacteria enter the body through the lungs, since the bacteria is propagated. After entering the lungs, the bacteria is taken up by cells called macrophages which are responsible for the defense of the body and immunity. These cells carry the bacteria to the lymph nodes where it grows to large numbers. Meanwhile the bacteria spreads through the entire body including the brain. The bacteria secretes toxins which cause internal bleeding and swelling and eventually leads to death. All these events happen in a matter of several days. If the ex-

posed person is immediately treated with antibiotics, there is a chance of recovery. However, by the time that symptoms appear, it is too late and the mortality is 100 percent. For this reason, the only chance to be protected is to be vaccinated before and have some immunity against the bacteria.

The danger of anthrax in warfare or terrorist attack is very real. During the Gulf War in 1991, according to Iraqi's admission, they had several thousand gallons of anthrax with some filled into weapons and ready to go. This is one concrete example. Therefore, we have every reason to believe that this is a real danger for which preparedness is the only weapon.



Top: Donna McMillian pours water in a bottle during the "Water Relay" at the 13th Annual Office Olympics. **Bottom:** Randy Sallee drops a bottle in the pool during the "Pepsi Challenge."



PHOTOS BY MRS. BETTY STEPHENS

Candy Green rushes to the next step of the "Dressing for Success" event, after placing a tie on Pete Bretzman during the 13th Annual Office Olympics at the Shreveport Expo Hall.

Wing members aid St. Jude

By Mrs. Betty Stephens
Wing Public Affairs

Climbing a five-foot, plastic wall, carrying and dropping Pepsi bottles, sliding swiftly down a slide on a rough burlap sack and much more, was a small price to pay for 12 wing members to lend a helping hand.

Two five-member teams from the 917th recently participated in the 13th Annual Office Olympics — a one-day zany event competition for office employees. Of all the fun and games, all the group members agree that helping others was their ultimate goal. This year's Office Olympics donated \$1,000 to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and \$500 to the YWCA Family Violence Center.

The 917th Logistics Group's "Dilbert's Y2K Errors," led by Pete Bretzman, was most excited about "Dress for Success," the mystery event. Bretzman was a sight for sore eyes after his four

teammates took turns dressing him in first, a long, blonde wig, then a size 40-D bra, next, an exotic tie, and last, a 56-inch string of beads. After finishing their item, each member tagged the next member, then took off to get a rough burlap sack. Team members ran up about 12 steps, sat down on the burlap sack and slid down the slide. Being sure to keep his wig on, the fully dressed Bretzman followed his teammates up the steps and down the slide, bringing his team in first place with a total relay time of less than 40 seconds.

The "917th Wing Nuts," from the Personnel Flight, with team captain Douglas McClain, got the adrenaline active during the office chair roll-off. When the whistle blew, two team members took

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PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA D'AURIZIO

Jeff Wellborn, chairman of the Kisatchie Group (Shreveport) of the Sierra Club's Delta Chapter (Louisiana), looks in the cockpit of a Cessna 172 at the Air Force Academy during the 917th Wing Civic Leader Tour to Colorado Springs, Colo.

Wing hosts civic leader tour

By Mr. Bill Robertson

Delegate and past president of the Louisiana Audubon Council and commercial copywriter in Shreveport.

One thing still perplexes me about the September 22-23 Civic Leader Tour hosted by the 917th Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve: How I could be mistaken for a civic leader.

That minor mystery notwithstanding, Col. Jack Ihle and his 917th staff organized a terrific taste of the Air Force and Reserve for 30 Shreveport-Bossier City residents.

The civic leaders included businesspeople, educators, public officials, clergy and citizens tapped by the wing to tour two pre-eminent Air Force installations in Colorado:

-The Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center, home of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, U.S. Space Command and Air Force Space Command; and

-The Air Force Academy.

As Colonel Ihle explained in an introductory briefing at headquarters September 22, the mission of the Civic Leader Tour was to give us a close-up view of the Air Force and Reserve. We civic leaders were to glean a greater understanding of the 917th's mission for sharing with friends and associates upon our return.

Speaking for myself, but also judging from comments by my fellow tourists, I'd say "Mission Accomplished."

We flew round-trip to Peterson Air Force Base at Colorado Springs on a passenger-equipped KC-135E Stratotanker detailed to the 940th Air Refueling Wing of Beale AFB, California.



Philipp Sullivan, director of facilities at Alexandria/Pineville Convention and Visitors Bureau, looks at aircraft at the Air Force Academy.

➔ See TOUR continued on Page 7

Engine Shop expansion improves safety conditions

By Tech. Sgt. John Reser
917 MXS Unit Public Affair Representative

The ribbon was cut on a new \$187,000 expansion to the Engine Shop.

When the Air Force Reserve Command decided to establish the TF-34 Engine Regional Repair Center, which would be responsible for overhauling TF-34 engines for the Air Force Reserves A-10 fleet, the 917th engine shop stepped up to accept the challenge.

About the same time, the 917th was also standing up the only B-52 unit in AFRC. The Engine Shop didn't hesitate to take on the additional tasking of TF-33 phase inspections and two-level maintenance. At that time, the engine shop's mission required eight mechanics, one engine tracker and one supply clerk.

This additional tasking created a TF-33 section, the ERRC and A-10 flight line support. The Engine Shop was also given the task of supplying A-10 Auxiliary Power Units for the A-10 fleet.

"In order to meet the new mission, we had to triple the number of employees," said Master Sgt. Tony Mosery, TF-34 section chief. This made the Jet Shop the largest back shop in the 917th, with more than 50 Air Reserve Technicians and traditionalist reservists.

Trying to make space for maintenance, equipment and engine storage became a priority. Safety was fast becoming a major issue in the overcrowded shop.

"We found ourselves creating hazards in order to meet the demand of the mission, and this was not acceptable," Master Sgt. Tom Grady, flight chief, said. In order to relieve some congestion Master Sgt Ken Potter, TF-33 section chief, found a temporary facility to house the TF-33 engines and work bay.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA D'AURIZIO

Col. Jack Ihle, 917th Wing commander, Master Sgts. Kenny Potter, Tom Grady, Chief Master Sgt. Larry Sheppleman, Lt. Col. John Douglas, Maj. Anthony Baity, Master Sgt. Don Lynberry and Col. Gerald Werth prepare to cut the ribbon on the new Engine Shop addition.

"The old bomb storage building was sufficient to use until a permanent facility closer to hanger 1 could be found," said Potter. This move eased some problems in the engine shop but still left the facility cluttered with engines, parts and equipment awaiting maintenance.

The expansion gives the engine shop a new APU maintenance section and a new storage area for TF-34 parts. The additional wings will help the engine shop meet its production requirements in a safer, more cost effective standard.

"The storage is essential for us to meet the mission, with fewer and fewer engine parts available, tearing down engines for good parts is a must," Grady said.

917th practices war exercises during Blue Flag

Several members of the 917th Wing stepped in to help 8th Air Force practice war during a recent Blue Flag exercise.

Blue Flag exercises sharpen the warfighting skills of Air Force commanders, giving them invaluable hands-on experience through simulation before they have to make command decisions in actual war. In this scenario, allied forces from the United States, Britain and Canada waged a five-day war against an imaginary enemy.

The exercise provided a realistic dress rehearsal for a real war, said Col. James Ewing, 608th Air Operations Group commander and director of the air

operations center. "The situations we faced during the exercise are exactly what we would see during a real-world war," he said. "If it flew through the air or went from the air to the ground, we were planning and organizing it."

"The intent of these exercises is to make it so realistic that participants can't tell whether it's a wargame or the real thing," said Lt. Col. Mark Leonard, chief of exercises and plans, 505th ECS. "We make sure they are exposed to every challenge involved in running an air campaign. We want them to walk away from the exercise as better planners, ready to face any obstacle they may encounter."

"We were just tickled pink by the performance and ability of the 917th members," Lt. Col. Marty Schencke, Air Force Reserve Command advisor to the 8th Air Force commander, said. "We're planning another Blue Flag for the April 2000 time frame, and hope that the 917th will be available to help again."

Personnel who participated were: Maj. Martin Crow, Tech. Sgts. Ruthanne Dailey and Rosita Babb, Staff Sgts. David M. Everett and Cleveland Curtis. Everett was selected as a superior performer. (Staff report from an 8 AF News Release)



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA D'AURIZIO

Lt. Col. Johnny Weaver, 47th Fighter Squadron, chief of student affairs, trains on the new A-10 simulator.



Capt. Jim Travis, 47th Fighter Squadron, A-10 instructor pilot, and Vinny DiTori, lead software engineer for A-10 simulator project, bring up the system.

Simulators create realism for pilots

**By Mrs. Belinda Bazinet
Wing Public Affairs**

Using simulators as a training tool is nothing new in this country. Computer generated full motion flight simulators have given airline pilots a level of realism that is invaluable when it comes to honing their skills.

The 47th Fighter Squadron can now take advantage of this technology and train on the best the Air Force has to offer for A-

10 training after receiving two Multi-Task Trainers (MTT). The MTTs, rigged with the latest in computer graphics, has a 180-degree field of view and a cockpit that duplicates the real thing. Sound effects add to the realism.

Training in the MTT will cover basic flying techniques, instrument familiarization, runway approaches and egress exercises. "The more flying the pilots can do in the trainer, the better prepared they will be to handle situations in the air," Lt. Col. Edmund Walker, assistant operations director for academic training, said.

"Pilots new to the A-10 will use the MTTs before ever climbing into the cockpit," he said. "By fine tuning their skills with the MTT, flying time and money will be saved."

Instructor pilots will input one of 10 different scenarios, lasting two hours each. "One of the benefits (of the trainers) is the ability to freeze a situation, discuss it and then restart the scenario," Capt. Tom Cruzan, an A-10 instructor pilot, said. "You can't do that in the air."

Instructor pilots have begun familiarization training, which will continue through December. Student pilots are scheduled to begin training in January, with plans to train about 50 pilots per year. (*Staff Sgt. Teena Britton, Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this story.*)

TOUR

The 940th crew treated us to smooth fair-weather flying with full access to the aircraft, including the cockpit and the refueling boom below deck.

Upon arrival at Peterson, we were briefed on its 302nd Airlift Wing, which flies C-130s on cargo missions and into forest fires. Then we visited the renowned Cheyenne Mountain underground combat operations center in the Rocky Mountain foothills west of Colorado Springs.

Cheyenne Mountain is an engineering wonder, a security labyrinth, and a technological marvel. Its 1,400-member workforce monitors global missile, aircraft and space activity for the U. S. and Canada. CMOG Personnel work inside 15 spring-mounted buildings (to withstand earthquakes and nuclear explosions) accessed through six-foot-thick concrete and metal "blast" doors.

.....**Continued from Page 5**

That evening we enjoyed a meal at the Peterson AFB Officers Club and a thought-provoking speech by 917th Wing Vice Commander James W. Graves on the thread of diversity that runs through American history.

After the mysterious and subterranean NORAD, the Air Force Academy was all Colorado sunshine and wild blue yonder. We enjoyed tours of the athletic facilities, an intimate beef-stroganoff lunch with 4,100 cadets and a visit to the stunning Cadet Chapel, the most-visited manmade attraction in Colorado.

As awe-inspiring as the Air Force installations were, I was struck most during the civic leader tour by the intelligence, competence and friendliness of each Air Force member I encountered. They put a face on today's Air Force and Reserve for me. They, and all of you who make up the 917th, are a credit to your country.



Maj. Rob Glass, Capt. J.D. Deemer, Maj. John Ehrenberger and Master Sgt. Ron Fagan finish up the annual 3-mile fitness walk on the A-10 flightline.



Tech. Sgt. Kathleen Andrews and Senior Airman Mary Clark lengthen their stride to complete the 3-mile walk during the October UTA.

Exertion is a good thing

**By Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio
Wing Public Affairs**

The 917th Wing worked up a sweat on the October UTA as members wore a path in the concrete on flightline road.

Each year reservists are required to complete a weigh-in and 3-mile walk in a specified amount of time based on their age. The walk replaced a mile and a half run a few years ago and the fitness testing may be

modified again in the future.

"During the 1998 Medical ART Conference, there was talk of changing the fitness test to a one-mile walk, push-ups, set-ups and stretching exercises," said Master Sgt. Jim Singleton, 917th chief of health services support. "This was only projected; we haven't received anything in writing." The 3-mile walk has had a more successful pass rate than the run.

"There are not as many injuries or people falling out doing the walk," said Tech. Sgt. Debra Phenix, 917th health services support. "If it changes to set-ups and push-ups, the pass rate will depend on the persons physical fitness routine." Spending time at the gym can improve muscular performance, body composition and cardiovascular fitness.

The base gym offers a variety of services to active-duty and reservists to support a good physical fitness routine: baseball, basketball, karate, aerobics, etc. The gym also offers massages for those needing to relax their muscles after a workout.

Currently, the base gym is open Monday-Friday from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday and holidays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Master Sgts. Jessica D'Aurizio and Tina Chasteen measure Lt. Col. Kevin Wolfe for the October weigh-in.

Combined Federal Campaign underway

This year as in times past, the Combined Federal Campaign is upon us. Once more, we of the 917th are able to look into ourselves and to see a reflection of others in their time of need. Yet more importantly, we can act upon this reflection. We can contribute to those organizations we feel best mirrors our own passions, our own likeness, and our own desires.

Many folks get a sense of belonging when they give. Others feel it is part of community service, to give back a portion to others less fortunate. Or perhaps some give because a family member is stricken with an ailment or disease. Whatever the case may be, whatever your reason, this is your opportunity to contribute to your favorite charity. And as a bonus, your charitable contribution is tax deductible.

If you have any questions concerning the campaign, feel free to call your area representative:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. 47th FSMU | K.O. Green 456-9513 |
| 2. 93rd BS Maintenance | Wayne Federwicz 456-8070 |
| 3. 917th LG | David Cates 456-8065 |
| 4. 917th SPS/Wing HQ. | Chris Bowman 456-9435 |
| 5. 47th Operations | Billy Beard 456-9476 |
| 6. 93rd Operations | Steve Kirkpatrick 456-1975 |



PHOTO BY BELINDA BAZINET

Combined Federal Campaign Chairman, Tech. Sgt. Michael Schroeder, watches over Col. Jack Ihle, 917th commander, as he signs his pledge card for CFC.



PHOTO BY CAPT. JERI HANSEN

Master Sgt. Randy Henley, 47FS first sergeant, bears the squadron flag as Lt. Col. Lindell Mabus takes command of the 47th Fighter Squadron during the October UTA.

The Ten Commandments of Firearms Safety

**By Master Sgt. Harry Bauer
917th Ground Safety Manager**

It's that time of year when many of our personnel take to the woods or fields in search of game animals or birds. The majority of those who hunt practice safe firearms handling. Although, there are still stories of tragic events that occurred due to unsafe handling of firearms. A simple set of safety rules (commandments) need to be applied at all time while handling and operating firearms of any type. Have a safe and successful hunting season

- I. Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded gun.
- II. A gun carried into camp, home and vehicle or when not in use, must always be unloaded, taken down or have the action open.
- III. Always be sure barrel and actions are clear of obstructions and you have ammunition of the proper size for the gun that you are carrying. Remove oil and grease from the chamber before firing.
- IV. Always carry your gun so you can control the direction of the muzzle, even if you stumble. Keep the safety on until you are ready to shoot.
- V. Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger. Know the identifying features of the game that you intend to hunt.
- VI. Never point a gun at anything that you do not want to shoot. Avoid horseplay when handling a gun.
- VII. Unattended guns should be unloaded. Guns and ammunition should be stored separately beyond the reach of children or thoughtless adults.
- VIII. Never shoot a bullet at a flat, hard surface or the surface of water when at target practice. Be sure backstops are adequate.
- IX. Avoid alcoholic drinks before or during shooting. Leave "Quick Draw" gun play to the experts.
- X. Always check with local authorities and Law Enforcement to insure you are in accordance with established laws.

Voices: What do you think of when you hear the word veteran?



Senior Airman Christopher Bowman
917th Security Forces

"I think of all the people who have served in the uniformed services before me."



Staff Sgt. Tracy Goodnight
917th Civil Engineering

"Someone who has served his or her country in one of the armed forces for a period of time."



Capt. Marc "Thor" Olson
47th Fighter Squadron

"When I think of a veteran, I think of the many people who have served our country to protect our way of life and those who have made many sacrifices to protect our freedom."



Senior Airman Jon Spears
917th Maintenance

"I think a veteran is a person who served our country to protect our freedom."

WHAT IS A VET?

By Father Denis Edward O'Brien
USMC

What is a vet?

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye.

Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg - or perhaps another sort of inner steel: the soul's ally forged in the refinery of adversity. Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem.

You can't tell a vet just by looking.

What is a vet? He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She - or he - is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another - or didn't come back AT ALL.

He is the Quantico drill instructor who has never seen combat - but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parade - riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb Of The Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket - palsied now and aggravatingly slow - who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his

wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being - a person who offered some of

his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say Thank You. That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Two little words that mean a lot, "THANK YOU."



Promotions

Captain

Patrick Downey Jeri Hansen
Tammy Norwood Barren Bernard

Dorneen Shipp

Senior Master Sergeant

Darlene Daspit

Master Sergeant

Kevin McKnight Clifton Williams

Technical Sergeant

Ronald Brantley Ben Hudman
Diana Perusin

Community College of the Air Force Graduates

Senior Master Sgt. Bernard Manale
Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Beckwith
Tech Sgt. Dunbar McEntry
Tech Sgt. Jody Kaiser
Tech. Sgt. Terry Peek
Staff Sgt. Ronald Brantley
Staff Sgt. Russell Dixon
Staff Sgt. Tracy Schultz
Senior Airman Michael Stratton

Barksdale Family Appreciation Day at Louisiana Downs

The Louisiana Downs is sponsoring a Barksdale Family Appreciation Day on Saturday, November 13.

All active duty, retirees, reserve and civilian employees at Barksdale and their families are invited. The track will provide free seating in the Grandstand level, parking, entry fee, and programs.

Special seating in the Clubhouse,

Pelican and Sky Room and Penthouse Suites are available to interested parties at a reduced rate. Deadline for sign-up is noon November 7.

Anyone interested in attending can sign-up in the 917th Public Affairs office. For more information contact Mrs. Belinda Bazinet at 456-8145 or Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio at 456-9181.

SEARCH

It really made me appreciate what the guys went through."

The team relies on records and witness interviews to locate possible crash sites. After verifying leads, the recovery element (which Beard was part of) travels to the site to determine if something is there.

"We found a lap belt at the helicopter crash site," he said. "It was still locked, which told us that the crew member was

probably still with the aircraft when it crashed."

A civilian anthropologist also travels with the team. "We found a small bone and the anthropologist was able to tell that it was the left toe bone from a Caucasian male. Impressive!"

"This was a great mission," Beard said. "We'll keep looking until our guys are found. We don't give up!"

JUDE

off from point "A," going to a table between points "A" and "B." One was in a wheeled chair pushed by the other. Once at the table, the rider jumped up, made a 10 paperclip chain, dropped back into the chair and was whirled to point "B." Two other team members continued the race, one given the chain and taking the rider's place. The new pusher took off to the next table between points "B" and "C." There the rider jumped up, rushed to the table, opened a thermos, put the chain in it, closed it, returned to the chair, and was pushed to point "C." At point "C" the fifth team member took the thermos, grabbed a giant ball and rolled it back to the starting point. The Wing Nuts took first place.

As if the "Wing Nuts" were not rushed enough, they took off to the "Water Break Relay." There five teams lined up side by side, stretched from water coolers to tables

where 32-ounce bottles waited to be filled. When the whistle blew, the members closest to the coolers grabbed small paper cone cups from the dispensers, filled them with water and carefully ran to give them to the next group. The next member did likewise, and so forth, until the last person at the table poured the water in the bottle. The process was repeated until the bottles were filled. The bottles were emptied into large containers and filled again and again until the whistle was blown. Donna McMillan, personnel readiness technician, poured more than 64 ounces of water into their container in less than 1 minute and 30 seconds. Another "First Place," for the team. Yea-a-a-h!

"We do it because it is really fun, and the money goes toward a good cause," said McClain.

SERVICES

917th Military Personnel Flight

Bldg. 6803, Room 140, ext. 9205

Saturday

7 - 11 a.m. - Newcomers in-processing.
11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)

Sunday

7 - 8 a.m. - Closed for training.
8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)
2:30 - 4 p.m. - Closed for training.

Monday - Friday

7 a.m. - 4 p.m. All service.

NOTE: Customer Service Functions include in & out processing, ID cards, DEERS, DD93s, SGLI, Vehicle Decals, Record Reviews, etc.

Base Billeting

Bldg. 5155, 456-3091/3092

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week (reservations required).

Chaplain

Bldg. 6803, Room 239, 456-9179

Saturday & Sunday - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Red River Dining Hall

Bldg. 4631

Breakfast - 5:30 - 6:30 a.m.

Lunch MS - 11 - 1

47FS - 11:45 WG - 11

MSS - 11:45 93 BS - 11:15

CES - 12 SPS - 12:15

Shuttle service to the dining hall runs every 20 minutes starting at 11 a.m.. Pick-up points are Bldg. 6850 and Bldg. 6825 (northeast side of Bldg. 6803)

NOTE: You must show ID card, newcomer's letter or DD form 1172.

Family Readiness Center

Bldg. 4713

Saturday & Sunday - 8 - 11 a.m.

Military drivers license

Military drivers license issue is available on the main UTA in bldg. 6825, Rm. 240. Issue hours are as follows:

Saturday & Sunday noon - 2 p.m.

Lodging

For information on official or space A lodging call 1-888-AF-LODGE. Once the automated system answers, key in the first three letters of the base you are trying to reach.

Military Pay

Main UTA hours of operation:

Sat. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sun. 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

917th Wing Training Schedule

November UTA 6-7

Time	Event	Location	Participants
Saturday			
0600	UTA prayer breakfast	Red River Inn Dining Hall	Everyone welcome
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned unit	Personnel assigned
0700	Wing staff meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	All unit commanders
0730	Long & Short fly physicals	Flight surgeon's office	Flyers scheduled
0700-0830	Intro -- all newcomers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227 (auditorium)	All newcomers
0730-1030	Immunizations	Base hospital	
0800	Physicals	Base hospital foyer	As scheduled
0730-1000	Body fat measurements	Base hospital, Family practice clinic	
0800	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hanger 7	As scheduled
0900	Anti-terrorism training	Bldg. 6803, Rm 227	As needed
0900	OJT training mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123	Unit training monitors
0900-1100	Intro. to Front Page 98	STARBASE	Scheduled personnel
0900-1100	Intro. to Word 97	Education Bldg.	Scheduled personnel
0930, 1030 & 1330	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17	As scheduled
1000	First sergeants meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	First sergeants
1000	Unit deploy. managers	Bldg. 6803, Rm 227	All UDMs
1200	SFS Change of Command	Warrior Training Center	Everyone welcome
1300	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hanger 7	As scheduled
1300	Wing safety training	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	Unit safety reps.
1300-1500	Intro. to Access 97	STARBASE	Scheduled personnel
1445	Alternate 3 mile walk	Base Track	As needed
1500	MSSQ Commander's Call	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	All assigned
1550-1615	Sign-out	1550 -- CES, MSS, WG	1600 -- LS

Sunday			
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned Unit	Personnel assigned
0800	Human Relations	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	As needed
0800	Initial Chem. Warfare	Hanger 7	As scheduled
0800-1200	EO 2000	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor	As scheduled
0830 & 1230	EOC testing	Bldg. 4314, 3rd floor (by Burger King)	Scheduled by unit
0900	Web Masters meeting	Bldg. 6815, T-Net Room	
0900	Substance Abuse	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	As needed
0900	Unit advisory council	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	Unit representative
0900	Catholic Mass	Base Chapel 2	Everyone welcome
0900-1100	Intro. to Computers	STARBASE	Scheduled personnel
1015-1100	Protestant services	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227 (auditorium)	Everyone welcome
1030	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17	As scheduled
1300	LDP Graduation	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	All welcome
1300	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (opposite main entrance to base hospital)	
1300	Flightline drivers training	Bldg. 6825, Rm. 243	All welcome
1400	SORTS meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	Unit commanders
1515	47th commanders call	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	Assigned personnel
1550-1615	Sign-out	1550 -- CES, MSS, WG	1600 -- LS

UTA Schedule

Main

Nov. 6-7
Dec. 4-5
Jan. 8-9
Feb. 5-6
Mar. 4-5
Apr. 1-2
May 6-7
June 3-4
July 8-9
August 5-6

Alternate

Nov. 13-14
Dec. 11-12
Jan. 22-23
Feb. 12-13
Mar. 11-12
Apr. 8-9
May 20-21
June 10-11
July 15-16
August 12-13

917th Wing
1000 Davis Ave. East
Barksdale AFB, LA 71110-2287

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